AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1.(Currently Amended) A suspension comprising:

a metal material defining at least a portion of the suspension;

an adhesive bonded to a portion of the metal material; and

a composite material having a higher stiffness to weight ratio than the metal material and being bonded to the same adhesive layer that is bonded to the metal material , the adhesive layer being thinner than .00025 cm~~the composite material~~.

2.(Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal material defines a load beam of the suspension and the adhesive and the composite material are positioned on the load beam.

3.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal material defines a base area of the suspension and the adhesive and the composite material are positioned on the base area.

4.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal material defines a spring area having a first bonding area, the composite material defines a load beam having a second bonding area and the adhesive is bonded between the first bonding area and the second bonding area.

5. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal material defines a spring area having a first bonding area, the composite material defines a base area having a second bonding area and the adhesive is bonded between the first bonding area and the second bonding area.

6.(Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a high performance plastic.

7.(Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 6 wherein the composite material comprises a liquid crystal polymer.

8.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a reinforced plastic.

9.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a metal matrix composite.

10.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 9 wherein the metal matrix composite comprises aluminum with alumina fibers.

11. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a ceramic material.

12.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a glass material.

13.(Currently Amended) A suspension comprising:

a suspension body formed from a layer of metal; and

a composite stiffener formed from a composite material and bonded directly to a portion of the suspension body by a single adhesive layer that is thinner than .00025 cm~~the layer of metal~~.

14.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite stiffener is bonded to a base area of the suspension body.

15.(Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite stiffener is bonded to a load beam of the suspension body.

16.(Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a high performance plastic.

17.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a reinforced plastic.

18.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a metal matrix composite.

19.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a ceramic material.

20.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a glass material.

21.(Currently Amended) A suspension comprising:

a suspension body formed from a layer of metal; and

stiffener means formed of a composite material for increasing the stiffness of selected areas of the suspension and bonded directly to the suspension body by a single adhesive layer that is thinner than .00025 cm~~the layer of metal~~.

22.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material bonded to a base area of the suspension body.

23.(Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material bonded to a load beam of the suspension body.

24.(Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material having a higher stiffness to mass ratio than the layer of metal.

25.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a metal matrix.

26.(New) A suspension comprising:

a metal material defining at least a portion of the suspension;

an adhesive bonded to a portion of the metal material; and

a composite material having a higher stiffness to weight ratio than the metal material and being bonded to the adhesive that is bonded to the metal material such that the adhesive does not absorb a significant amount of energy during bending of the suspension.

27.(New) The suspension of claim 26 wherein the adhesive has a thickness of less than .00025 cm.

28.(New) A suspension comprising:

a suspension body formed from a layer of metal; and

a composite stiffener formed from a composite material and bonded directly to a portion of the suspension body by an adhesive layer having a thickness such that the adhesive layer does not dampen motion of the suspension.

29.(New) The suspension of claim 28 wherein the adhesive layer has a thickness of less than .00025 cm.